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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

American Samoa Government
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Ali'imau H. Scanlan, Jr.
Director

Lelei Peau
Deputy Director
DOC:0949

October 1, 2003

Mr. Bivan Patnaik
United States Coast Guard
Docket Management Facility
(USCG-2003-14273) - 45
US Department of Transportation, room PL-401
400 Seventh Street SW
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Re: Federal Regulatory Notice for Mandatory Ballast Water Management Program
Federal Consistency Determination

Dear Mr. Patnaik:

The American Samoa Coastal Management Program (ASCMP) has received your notification regarding the Mandatory Ballast Water Management Program and the Environmental Assessment that was completed for the project review. ASCMP has reviewed the proposed regulations promulgated by 15 CFR part 930 subpart C, and specifically 15, CFR 930.36(e) and concurs with the USCG's determination that this regulatory action is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of American Samoa's Coastal Zone Management Program.

ASCMP is well aware of the problems that can occur due to ballast water exchange within coastal zones. In cases where non-indigenous species invade ecosystems, aquatic and marine ecosystems and biodiversity can be altered, commercial and recreational fisheries impacted, and potential risks to human health can increase. Implementation of the mandatory program would likely alleviate many of the impacts associated with the introduction of non indigenous species (NIS) through ballast water discharge.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Vicki Gerberich of my staff at 633-5155.

Sincerely,

Gene Brighthouse, Manager
American Samoa Coastal Management Program